



**U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
BUREAU FOR HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE (BHR)  
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

**DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO –  
Complex Emergency**

Situation Report #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2001

August 20, 2001

*Note: this situation report updates the information bulletin dated May 11, 2001*

**BACKGROUND**

The humanitarian situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has been defined by continuing insecurity, limited resources, and problematic access to vulnerable populations for the past three years.

Joseph Kabila became the President of the DRC on January 26, 2001, following the death of his father, Laurent-Desire Kabila. President Kabila has publicly committed to fostering peace in the DRC and supports the Lusaka Peace Accords signed in July-August 1999. A tenuous cease-fire has held for the last few months in accordance with the Lusaka accords, and UN Observer Mission in the DRC (MONUC) observers are verifying that troops have withdrawn the requisite 15 kilometers (km) from their forward positions. However, in the eastern part of the country (North Katanga, Maniema, North and South Kivu provinces) fighting has intensified involving Interahamwe and Mai Mai forces against the Congolese Democratic Assembly (RCD). In addition, some Rwandan Hutu fighters moved into northwestern Rwanda.

The governments of Angola, Namibia, Rwanda, Uganda, and Zimbabwe have agreed to disengage their troops from the front lines, as mandated by the UN Security Council. Troops from Angola, Namibia, and Zimbabwe have supported the GDRC for the past two years. Uganda backs the opposition group Front for the Liberation of the Congo (FLC), headed by Jean-Pierre Bemba and based in Gbadolite, Equateur Province. Rwanda backs the RCD, headed by Adolphe Onusumba and based in Goma, North Kivu province. A May 2001 UN report on the exploitation of natural resources in the DRC accuses foreign armed forces, as well as Congolese fighters, of using the minerals (such as coltan, gold and diamonds) and forest resources of the DRC as a means of fueling the conflict.

Insecurity in rural and urban areas has restricted access to agricultural land, decreasing harvest yields and contributing to the food security crisis. Lack of access to traditional markets along the front lines of the conflict has discouraged farming. Poverty is widespread and the health care system has eroded due to a lack of resources and continuous looting by different parties in the conflict. People have low purchasing power due to the lack of markets and infrastructure. The World Bank recently estimated Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita at U.S. \$78 in 1999. Widespread insecurity has resulted in limited private sector activities. President Joseph Kabila has attempted to address these economic concerns, however, the capital economy faces difficult circumstances. Increasingly women and young girls have turned to prostitution in the absence of other viable income alternatives, resulting in alarming social consequences, including the increased incidence of HIV/AIDS.

NUMBERS AFFECTED AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
<b>Internally Displaced (June 2001)</b>	<b>Total:</b> more than 2,041,000 1,699,000 – Eastern Provinces (North and South Kivu, Katanga, Orientale, Maniema) 342,000 – Equateur, Kasai Orientale, Kasai Occidentale, and Kinshasa	<b>United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA)</b>
<b>Refugees from the DRC (August 2001)</b>	<b>Total:</b> more than 333,139 11,600 – Angola, 23,716 – Burundi 10,095 – Central African Republic (CAR) 83,680 – Republic of Congo (ROC) 26,000 – Rwanda, 114,436 – Tanzania 7,612 – Uganda, 56,000 – Zambia	<b>Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)</b>
<b>Refugees in the DRC (August 2001)</b>	<b>Total:</b> more than 360,000 187,580 – Angola, 19,950 – Burundi 25,000 – CAR, 5,200 – ROC, 36,000 – Rwanda 74,300 – Sudan, 12,900 – Uganda	<b>UNHCR</b>

Total FY 2001 USAID Humanitarian Assistance to the DRC (to date) .....\$46,432,465  
Total FY 2001 State/PRM Humanitarian Assistance to the DRC (to date) .....\$10,680,000  
Total FY 2001 USDA/FAS Food Assistance to the DRC (to date) .....\$21,400,00

## **CURRENT SITUATION**

### ***Promoting Peace in the DRC***

On July 9 and 10, 2001, the international humanitarian community participated in a conference in Geneva, Switzerland focusing on health and food security in the DRC. The conference participants approved of the public health approach in humanitarian assistance that supports local structures and encourages community participation. Regarding food security, UN agencies, donors, and NGO partners agreed to continue support for traditional food security interventions (seeds and tools distributions, assistance to nutrition centers) and bolster small-scale infrastructure projects (maintain feeder roads and small bridges, and introduce micro credit activities where appropriate). In addition, they reached a consensus on the need for improved coordination and information sharing, and the need to deploy a senior UN Humanitarian Coordinator to Kinshasa.

The deployment of military observers from the UN Observer Mission in the DRC (MONUC) has opened some previously isolated areas throughout eastern DRC to humanitarian aid. Non-governmental organizations have reported alarmingly high malnutrition rates and widespread infrastructure deterioration in some newly accessible areas, such as in northern Katanga province. 2,366 MONUC military personnel had arrived by mid-June, and all four sector headquarters in Mbandaka, Kalemie, Kananga, and Kisangani are currently operational. The observers have been verifying the disengagement of armed forces from the front lines.

The government of Namibia has committed to withdrawing 2,000 Namibian Defense Force (NDF) troops from the DRC by the end of August. Namibian troops have been in the DRC since 1998 supporting government troops alongside Angolan and Zimbabwean soldiers. Their withdrawal commitment indicates further confidence in the cease-fire.

On May 17, the GDRC lifted a ban (Decree Law no. 194) on political activity of opposition parties. Parties are allowed to operate once they have contacted the Ministry of the Interior in writing. The lifting of the ban has raised expectations for a more inclusive environment for the inter-Congolese political dialogue. However, on July 30 government authorities blocked an opposition demonstration in Kinshasa organized by the Innovative Forces for Union and Solidarity (FONUS) party, the Union for Democracy and Social Progress (UDPS), and other opposition groups.

### ***Continuing Insecurity***

The ongoing negotiations for UN-led disarmament, demobilization, reintegration, and resettlement or repatriation (DDRRR) illustrate one positive development in the DRC peace process. Some members of armed groups in the DRC have started to

return to their countries of origin. However, these movements of foreign-armed groups contribute to instability in the region.

The high-level UN Security Council mission to the DRC during May 15-26 voiced "cautious optimism" about the immediate future of the Lusaka Peace Process. The twelve ambassadors of the delegation visited the DRC to promote the peace process and the application of the Lusaka cease-fire agreement. The mission reiterated the need for a concerted national dialogue alongside the withdrawal of international armed forces from the DRC.

All sides continue to accuse one another of violating the Lusaka cease-fire agreement signed in July-August 1999, and the situation in the eastern provinces remains precarious, with fighting reported in North and South Kivu and in northern Katanga province. On July 26, RCD/Goma forces allegedly captured two towns (Mpala and Tenbwe) on Lake Tanganyika in northern Katanga province from Congolese Armed Forces (FAC) and their Mai-Mai militia allies. RCD/Goma accused the government forces of using these towns as rear bases to launch attacks on the lake.

The U.N. World Food Program (WFP) reported at the end of July that movements of Interahamwe forces in North Kivu province (Rutshuru territory) and fighting in South Kivu province have prompted internal displacement and restricted humanitarian access.

According to a June briefing paper by the International Crisis Group (ICG), an estimated 12-15,000 Rwandan Hutu armed forces and Hutu militias (ex-FAR and Interahamwe) currently operate in the DRC. Some of these forces have integrated into the Congolese Armed Forces (FAC), while others are fighting in eastern Congo. Among them are some of the perpetrators of the 1994 Rwandan genocide. Some Burundian Forces for the Defense of Democracy (FDD) troops have also integrated into the FAC. These foreign forces continue to destabilize the peace process in the DRC and in the region. Indigenous Congolese militia groups, collectively known as Mai-Mai, also operate against what they see as "foreign invaders" and some Mai-Mai themselves operate as criminal elements.

Mid-July international media reports indicated that the Rwandan-supported RCD/Goma force sent reinforcements to Kisangani in Orientale Province, the site of fierce clashes between Rwandan and Ugandan troops in August 1999. A remilitarization of the city would be in violation of the Lusaka cease-fire agreement and UN resolution 1304 which called for the immediate withdrawal of Rwandan, Ugandan, and Congolese armed forces from Kisangani.

### ***Refugee Movements***

A recent Medicins sans Frontieres/France (MSF/F), UNHCR, and UNOCHA joint mission reported that an

estimated 25,000 refugees from the Central African Republic (CAR) fled into northwestern DRC following insecurity caused by a failed May 28 coup attempt in Bangui, the CAR capital. UNHCR is currently providing approximately seventeen tons of food and relief aid (plastic sheeting, blankets, mats, and fuel containers) to 15,000 refugees in Zongo, Equateur Province, and 10,000 refugees in villages along the Oubangui River. The refugee flows prompted the CAR government to close its 1,000 km border with the DRC during the week of July 18, forcing thousands of fleeing residents to remain in the CAR. UNHCR also reported an influx of an additional 8,000 refugees fleeing unrest in Angola in mid-August.

### ***Food Security Situation***

A recent WFP mission found a deteriorating food security situation in Katanga province, once the DRC's breadbasket, which had been cut off from humanitarian assistance for three years. Insecurity constrains the ability of urban residents to access agricultural land in the countryside, and roaming armed groups outside cities have led to chronic displacement in rural areas. Nutrient-poor wild manioc has become the sole food source for some transient farmers, leading to a 20 percent average global malnutrition rate in northern Katanga, according to the NGO Alisei-Nuova Frontiera. In response, the WFP began an ambitious airlift program in June, jointly funded by USAID/OFDA and UNOCHA through AirServ International, which targets 650 tons of food and 100 tons of relief supplies to six districts (26,000 people) in Katanga Province over the next two months.

The ongoing conflict has interrupted planting seasons and disrupted trade routes across the country. Agricultural self-sufficiency will be a long process, with more than 1.4 million people currently dependent on WFP food to survive. Towards this objective, the UN Development Program (UNDP) provided \$4 million to Bas-Congo province on July 31 to implement programs which foster food self-sufficiency. Bas-Congo and Bandundu provinces are farming zones that Kinshasa traditionally relies on for fresh food supplies. Hundreds of thousands more people countrywide need assistance, according to international NGOs working on the ground.

### ***Health Situation***

Preliminary Phase One results released by the UN Expanded Program of Immunization (EPI) against polio in the DRC announced that an estimated 84 percent of the targeted population, or 9.76 million out of approximately 11.6 million children under age five, have been vaccinated. Vitamin A supplements were administered along with the anti-polio vaccine during Phase Two vaccination days in mid-August, and Phase Three is scheduled for mid-September.

According to a June 2001 report by the UN Secretary General on the status of MONUC, 37 percent of the

population of the DRC lacks access to essential medical facilities and 47 percent lacks access to safe drinking water. The health care infrastructure has been severely eroded by the ongoing conflict, but remains intact, sustained by increased international support.

A joint UN World Health Organization (WHO)/UNICEF mission to the DRC in late June reported that health services would cease to function without external support. Limited support reaches fewer than one third of health zones at this time. According to the WHO/UNICEF assessment, the majority of the DRC's 50 million people survives on approximately 20 cents (U.S.) per person per day, and eat less than two thirds of the calories per day needed to maintain health. Recent surveys of sample sites in eastern DRC by the International Rescue Committee (IRC) suggest that the ongoing conflict may have contributed to an estimated 2.5 million in excess mortality, primarily from disease and malnutrition, between August 1998 and April 2001. Both directly war-affected populations and the general population are vulnerable and in need of health assistance to combat malaria, measles, and other ailments.

Specific scientific data on the levels of HIV/AIDS infection is currently unavailable as a result of the conflict, but health professionals from WHO and UNICEF are concerned that as access increases, the state of the epidemic will become increasingly evident. The June MONUC report speculated that more than 2 million people are affected by AIDS (twice the number as in 1999). Unsafe blood transfusions, sexual violence, and prostitution as a result of limited economic opportunities have contributed to high infection rates.

### ***Obstacles to Humanitarian Aid Delivery***

An acceptable candidate for the position as the UN Humanitarian Coordinator has not yet been agreed upon by the GDRC and the international community. The lack of a Humanitarian Coordinator has hindered international efforts to enhance relief aid to meet the growing humanitarian needs of people in the DRC.

The Congolese Ministry of Interior, despite assurances of free humanitarian access in early 2001, continues to require written authorization from the Minister of Interior for all travel by NGO workers in government areas outside of Kinshasa.

The vast size of the DRC and the poor quality of the physical infrastructure (roads and railways) has constrained access of humanitarian organizations to vulnerable populations. These organizations are developing emergency programs in road and bridge repair. Humanitarian aircraft provide safe and neutral transport to NGO and UN work sites in eastern DRC. WFP recently commenced a twice-weekly cross-line flight from Kinshasa to Goma via Kisangani. MONUC flights are also available on a space available basis for

the humanitarian community. UNOCHA has also developed a “peace boat” initiative to carry food aid, school supplies, seeds and tools along the Congo River between Kinshasa and points north and east, such as Kisangani in Orientale province.

which is used in the DRC. PRM also provides \$16 million to support 330,000 DRC refugees and other refugee groups in neighboring countries.

## **USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE**

USG humanitarian assistance to the DRC has steadily increased since the conflict reintensified in 1998.

USAID/OFDA’s funding for the DRC (approximately \$20 million) focuses primarily on health services and food security programs. USAID/OFDA also supports emergency infrastructure programs and agricultural programs for war-affected, vulnerable, and internally displaced persons. Programs that immediately provide assistance as well as projects that build local capacity for more sustainable relief are integrated to promote livelihoods. An important component of USAID/OFDA assistance is the funding of AirServ International to operate two humanitarian aircraft in areas outside of government control. USAID/OFDA also supports two Emergency Disaster Response Coordinators (EDRCs) in the DRC, to monitor the humanitarian situation and programs throughout the country.

USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Foreign Agriculture Service (USDA/FAS) have provided emergency food commodities in FY 2001. USAID/FFP has provided \$10.9 million and USDA/FAS has provided \$21.4 million in food commodities. The commodities were provided through the UN World Food Program (WFP) and the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC), to assist war-affected and displaced vulnerable populations.

USAID’s Africa Bureau provided approximately \$15 million in health-related support in FY 2001.

PRM currently provides \$10.68 million in direct assistance to programs targeting refugee and conflict victims inside the DRC. In December 2000, the President approved a PRM request for \$10 million from the Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance (ERMA) fund for emergency programs in the DRC and in neighboring countries affected by the war. ERMA funding helped support UNHCR, ICRC, UNICEF, UNOCHA, and UNSECOORD for emergency refugee activities, assistance to conflict victims, essential drug procurement, quick impact projects, coordination, and security infrastructure for relief operations. PRM gave another \$2.62 million to UNHCR for its regular refugee programs and children's initiatives. PRM also provided \$860,000 to WFP to respond to critical food gaps for refugee populations within the DRC. In addition to these direct contributions, PRM provided \$60 million of unearmarked funding to UNHCR in Africa, and \$45.1 million to ICRC in Africa, a portion of

**U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO  
THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (DRC)**

<i>Agency</i>	<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Sector</i>	<i>Regions</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>FY 2001 (to date)</b>				
<b>USAID .....</b>				<b>\$46,432,465</b>
<b>USAID/OFDA .....</b>				<b>\$20,875,320</b>
	Air Serv	Air delivery of relief aid/personnel	East	\$3,401,419
	AICF	Food security	Kinshasa	\$846,925
	AAH/USA	Health	North Katanga	\$640,038
	AAH/USA	Food security	South Kivu	\$568,489
	AAH/USA	Food security	Lubumbashi	\$993,080
	CRS	Health	Kabinda	\$152,319
	CRS	Health	North Sankuru, East Kasai	\$638,480
	CRS	Flood control	Kingabwa-Mombebe, Kinshasa	\$40,814
	FAO	Food security (cassava mosaic disease assistance), coordination	Kinshasa-Lubumbashi	\$626,000
	GAA	Food security	North Kivu	\$1,200,000
	IMA (SANRU)	Emergency health	Bandundu-Bas Congo, Kasais, Equateur, Ituri, North Kivu	\$1,000,000
	IRC	Umbrella – Health, Food security	South Kivu	\$1,060,155
	IRC	Health, water, food security, shelter	South Kivu	\$2,181,632
	IRC	Health, water, food security, shelter	Kisangani, Oriental Province	\$1,792,046
	IRC	Health, nutrition	Kabare, South Kivu	\$823,636
	IRC	Health, food security, nutrition, shelter	Kinshasa	\$399,375
	IRC	Water/sanitation	Kalemie, Katanga Province	\$1,692,915
	MERLIN	Health	Maniema Province	\$840,575
	SCF/UK	Food security, agriculture (seeds and tools)	Bunyakiri	\$899,928
	UNICEF	Emergency health	All	\$1,000,000
	WVRD	Health (improve local medical capacity)	Goma	\$77,494
<b>USAID/FFP .....</b>				<b>\$10,900,000</b>
	WFP and ICRC	13,720 MT of corn, pinto beans, peas, vegetable oil, and corn-soya blend (CSB)	All	\$10,900,000
<b>USAID/AFRICA BUREAU .....</b>				<b>\$14,657,145</b>
		Health-related programs	All	\$14,657,145
<b>USDA .....</b>				<b>\$21,400,000</b>
	WFP	24,500 MT of commodities (21,500 MT cornmeal, 3,000 MT vegetable oil)	All	\$21,400,000
<b>State/PRM .....</b>				<b>\$10,680,000</b>
	UNHCR	Refugee assistance in the DRC; assistance for Congolese refugees in neighboring countries (part of \$3.5 million ERMA draw down for UNHCR)	All	\$700,000
	UNHCR	Assistance for refugees in the DRC	All	\$2,220,000
	UNHCR	Assistance to children	All	\$400,000
	UNICEF	Drug procurement in support of USAID's Rural Health (SANRU) program	All	\$2,500,000
	UNOCHA	Coordination and a quick impact fund	All	\$2,000,000
	ICRC	Assistance for internally displaced	All	\$1,500,000
	UN Security Coordinator's Office (UNSECOORD)	Establish a security infrastructure for relief operations	All	\$500,000
	WFP	PRRO for refugees in the DRC	All	\$860,000

<b>Total USG FY 2001 .....</b>	<b>\$78,512,465</b>
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Roger Winter  
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*USAID/OFDA bulletins can be obtained from the USAID web site at [http://www.usaid.gov/hum\\_response/ofda/situation.html](http://www.usaid.gov/hum_response/ofda/situation.html)*

## NGO/IO ACTIVITIES

- Airlift
- Coordination
- Flood Control
- Food Security
- Health
- Livelihoods
- Nutrition
- Seeds/Tools
- Shelter
- Umbrella Grant
- Water/Sanitation

PROVINCE  
REGION  
City  
PROGRAM

## CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

SUDAN

CAMEROON

CONGO

UGANDA

RWANDA

BURUNDI

TANZANIA

ANGOLA

ZAMBIA

Cabinda  
(ANGOLA)

ATLANTIC  
OCEAN

USAID/OFDA FUNDED NGO/IO ACTIVITIES  
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO - AUGUST 2001

\*Base map by United Nations Cartographic Section  
\*\*Boundaries compiled using secondary source materials.



Ubangi Region  
IMA  
WRC

EQUATEUR  
IMA

Kisangani  
IRC

Ituri  
IMA

NORTH KIVU  
GAA  
IMA  
SCF/UK

Kinshasa  
IRC  
ACF/USA  
CRS  
FAO

Bandundu  
IMA

N. Sankuru  
CRS

KASAI  
OCCIDENTAL  
IMA

KASAI  
ORIENTAL  
IMA

Kabare  
IRC

MANIEMA  
MERLIN

Kabinda  
CRS

Kalemie  
IRC

N. KATANGA  
ACF/USA

KATANGA  
IRC

Lubumbashi  
ACF/USA  
FAO

EASTERN CONGO  
AIR-SERV

SOUTH KIVU  
ACF/USA  
IRC  
SCF/UK

NORTH KIVU  
GAA  
IMA  
SCF/UK